

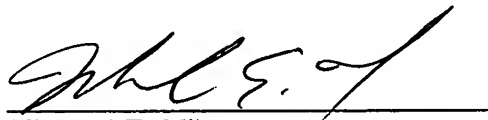
- - REMARKS - -

Claims 1-49 are currently pending in the application. No amendments have been made by this response.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner has issued a restriction requiring Applicants to elect a single species of the claimed invention for prosecution. In particular, the Examiner has asserted that the claims are directed to five (5) patently distinct species in view of certain limitations that are present in one or more of the independent claims. These claim limitations are set forth on page 2 of the Office Action.

The restriction is respectfully traversed. A species restriction should be based on the actual embodiments of the claimed invention disclosed in the application. The species restriction of the present Office Action, however, is based on claim limitations. Applicants believe that a species restriction based on claim limitations is improper. Moreover, Applicants cannot select a "species" of the invention for prosecution based on claim limitations since more than one of these limitations reads on the same embodiment of the invention. As a consequence, Applicants respectfully request the restriction be withdrawn.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael E. Milz", written over a horizontal line.

Michael E. Milz
Registration No. 34,880
Attorney for Applicant

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4200